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HYPNAGOGIC IMAGES AND BI-VISION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD. A NOTE.

By ALEXANDER F. AND ISABEL C. CHAMBERLAIN.

The subject of this note is the daughter of the authors, aged, at the time of the observation, 4 years and 4 months. On November 25, 1905, she said to her mother:

"Mama, do you see pictures, when you shut your eyes when it's dark?"

Her mother replied, "Yes, sometimes. Do you?"

Whereupon the conversation continued:

R. Yes, I see all kinds of funny men and animals.

M. What else do you see?

R. Sometimes, when I shut my eyes, I seem to go right down through the floor.

M. What do you do down there?

R. O, I see all sorts of funny things.

This conversation took place in the day-time. The next night, after she had been in bed a few minutes, Ruth called her mother, and said:

"Mama, when I shut my eyes and go down through the floor (just make-believe, you know, not really), why, sometimes I go into water. It's just make-believe water, is n't it? There is n't water really under the floor, is there?"

To this her mother replied: "Oh, no, that is just a kind of dream where you see the funny things and have funny things happen to you."

And Ruth continued: "Yes, I suppose, it must be dream-land where you go when you shut your eyes."

On December 4, 1905, her father asked her some questions concerning these "pictures." In her answers she said that she "saw it all crowded up with funny people and things," and that "they keep changing to something alike."

This discovery of "hypnagogic images" by so young a child is, perhaps, worth placing on record here. The thing had never been discussed or ever mentioned by her parents or by any one of her environment or acquaintance, and her announcement of seeing pictures with her eyes shut was entirely spontaneous and not led up to or suggested by word or action of other persons. The "going down through the floor," the "water," the "crowding up," and the "keep changing to

something alike," are interesting items in the description of the phenomena in question.

Another observation, relating to bi-vision, may also be recorded here. On November 14, 1905, Ruth said to her father, "When I look at my nose, I see two tathers (fathers)."

It would seem as if some of the psychological and physiological phenomena now on record only for a much older period of life, not only occur in early childhood, but are perceived by children and may possibly exert some influence upon the development of the individual.